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For Immediate Release  
September 30, 2005

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## **Sen. Van Woerkom disappointed in governor's veto of White Lake, Little Black Creek water studies**

**LANSING** – Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, said he was disappointed that the governor today prevented two important Muskegon County water studies from beginning.

The governor today signed the bill that included funding for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality but vetoed two line items that would have spent \$71,000 total for the studies.

A \$36,000 study would have studied nutrients in White Lake, which suffers from an overgrowth of weeds. The other study would have cost \$35,000 and would have looked at the troubled Little Black Creek. In August, the Michigan Department of Community Health warned the public to be careful in dealing with floodplain soil near the creek and said the soil should be tested for contamination.

“We’ve made good progress in cleaning up Muskegon County hotspots and these vetoes by the governor send a mixed message about the state’s commitment to help,” Van Woerkom said. “I wish this money could have been used to monitor the health of these waterways and contribute to their health in the future. The governor unfortunately has other priorities.”

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